

Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Olympia, WA

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## **EARTHQUAKE RISKS AREN'T JUST IN WESTERN WASHINGTON**

### **(ANNOUNCER)**

It's been 10 years since the Nisqually Earthquake a few miles north of Olympia. The 6.8 magnitude quake shook the Puget Sound area on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001, causing 400 injuries and millions of dollars in damage.

Tim Walsh, the Washington State's chief hazards geologist, says the state capital escaped more serious damage because the Nisqually quake was deep – more than 30 miles below the earth's surface. If it had been a shallow earthquake, like the recent 6.3 magnitude one in Christchurch, New Zealand, things could have been much worse.

Shallow earthquakes like the one in New Zealand—or the ones that happen in California—tend to cause more damage in a localized area. Because they are closer to the surface, the earthquake's energy doesn't spread very far from its epicenter. As a result the damage can be intense to those close by.

Walsh says the Washington State Department of Natural Resources helps local government planners, engineers, builders and citizens understand the earthquakes risks in their area. DNR has published earthquake risk maps for every county in the state. They can be found by going to the department's website at [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov) and searching for the "Washington State Geologic Information Portal"

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